Cracks in Sun Temple at Konark in Odisha

1631. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sun Temple structure at Konark in Odisha has developed cracks;

(b) the amount spent by the Government in the last three years for the repair and protection of this prized monument; and

(c) the funds spent for the repair of Taj Mahal at Agra vis-a-vis Konark temple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The conservation experts and scientists of the Archaeological Survey of India alongwith the concerned officers of the State Government of Orissa have recently conducted a detailed survey of the Sun Temple, Konark and found that no cracks are developing in the monument. The monument is well conserved and preserved.

(b) Expenditure incurred on Sun Temple, Konark during last three years is as detailed below:

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Year	Expenditure
1.	2006-07	81,10,790
2.	2007-08	77,83,463
3.	2008-09	72,10,971

(c) The expenditure incurred on Taj Mahal, Agra and Sun Temple, Konark during the current financial year till 31st October, 2009 is as detailed below:

(Amount in Rupees)

	Expenditure
Taj Mahal	66,37,360
Konark Temple	29,80,230

Potential of tourism in the country

1632. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the immense tourism potential of the country remains untapped because the development of tourism has been entrusted to the Governments of the States; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take to ensure that the potentials are tapped to the extent possible for the tourism boom in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority. The Ministry of Tourism also monitors the physical and financial progress of the projects through site visits and review meetings/conferences. The Ministry of Tourism has taken steps to achieve synergy for development and promotion of tourism in the country among the Central Ministries, States/Union Territories and other Stakeholders.

Developing coastal cities as cruise hub of the region

1633. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether we are planning to develop Mumbai, Kolkata or any other coastal city as the cruise hub of the region, leveraging on our excellent air, land and sea connectivity, thereby attracting more travellers from the Middle-East, Gulf, etc;

(b) if so, has any study been undertaken to find out the number of foreign tourists who combined land tourism with cruise facilities being provided either of our own or on code-sharing basis with foreign cruise infrastructure; and

(c) will special campaigns be launched by our foreign-based tourist offices or through print and media mode to popularize our varied landscapes, warm hospitality and multi-cultural shining and tempting ambience?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Government has approved the cruise shipping policy to develop and promote Cruise Tourism in India. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 1450.00 lakh to Cochin Port Trust, Kochi in 2008-09 for development of tourism infrastructure at Cochin Port, Kerala.

(b) No study has been undertaken by this Ministry to find out the number of foreign tourists who combined land tourism with cruise facilities being provided either of our own or on code-sharing basis with foreign cruise infrastructure. However, Ministry of Tourism in the year 2005 had undertaken a study on "Cruise Tourism Potential & Strategy Study".

(c) Ministry of Tourism promotes cruise tourism through brochures, Compact Discs and publicity materials distributed through its Indiatourism offices in the country and abroad.

Selection of more tourist spots in the country

1634. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: